

'23 S.; Eddie Van Vleck, '09; J. Frederick Byers, '04; Frank Wattles, '26; Chester B. Bowles, '24 S.; Archie Reid, '05; Karl Mosser, '11; W. E. Clow, Jr., '07; Ellis Knowles, '08; George C. Stanley, '13; Nat Wheeler, '14; Francis R. Blossom, '17; Silas M. Newton, '09; C. V. Benton, '07 S.; John B. Ryerson, *ex-'21*, and a host of others.

Some idea of Yale's supremacy at golf over other colleges may be seen from the intercollegiate championship, which in its history of thirty meets has been won by Yale sixteen times, or more than half, by Princeton seven times, by Harvard six times and by Dartmouth once. The individual title has been taken by a Yale man twelve times out of thirty-one, by a Harvard man seven times, by a Princeton man six times, by Columbia and Tulane twice, and by Dartmouth and Georgia Tech once.

The late John Reid, Jr., '99, whose father is regarded as the "Father of American Golf", had much to do with the establishment of the game's tradition and color in this country. Older graduates will recall his great popularity with Yale men and with golfers, as well as his singing of the old Scotch ballads learned by his father at Old St. Andrews in Scotland.

The work done by the various officials in the United States Golf Association and the sectional associations is greatly responsible for the swift growth of the game in America. Among the Yale men who have served long and faithfully as legislators, executives, and officials are: J. Frederic Byers, '04; George V. Rotan, '08 S.; James A. Stillman, '95; Robert A. Gardner, '12; Mortimer N. Buckner, '95; Frank L. Woodward, '88; Eben M. Byers, '01, and many others. Woodward and J. F. Byers were presidents of the U. S. G. A.

In the work of golf-course architecture Charles H. Banks, '06, associate of the late Seth Raynor, is now one of the most prominent. Raynor and Banks built the Yale Golf Course. H. F. Andrews, '06 S., and Max H. Behr, '05 S., have also been prominent in this field.

In the golf industrial field A. G. Spalding & Bros. has always been famous as a Yale firm. Its president is Julian W. Curtiss, '79, and it has always had a large number of Yale employes. Another is the Horton Manufacturing Co., makers of the steel shaft, whose president is Charles T. Treadway, '00.

Undergraduate Golf at Yale

By BEN THOMSON

Professional at the Yale Golf Course

OUT on the picturesque Greist estate is a golf course planned and built by Mr. C. B. McDonald, himself a champion many years ago. Mr. McDonald is the builder of several of the finest golf courses in America, including the National Links at Southampton, Lido, Fisher's Island and Mid-ocean at Bermuda, but undoubtedly his masterpiece is the Yale golf course. In fact, it ranks among the finest in the United States, perhaps in the world; for nowhere, excepting Gleneagles in Perthshire, Scotland, does any golf course excel it. It is a course for the poor player as well as the good, for at each hole the tees are planned to suit everybody's game, the long course for the good player and the short for the beginner.

What better surrounding for golf could be found than at the Yale Course! Here the students come to play in an atmosphere which is entirely golf. Just as soon as the player passes the entrance gates and drives up the beautiful roadway to the simple log-cabin club-house set upon a hill overlooking the third and fourth holes, there is a feeling of quiet and an atmosphere of golf; there are no city noises to disturb one. One realizes that golf can be the only topic in such a wonderful setting.

Any day during the Spring and Fall the students are out in great numbers practising and playing golf, for here is a course for the good player to polish his game and for the poor player to improve his. All kinds of shots can be practised, long irons, difficult mashie shots, short run-ups and long approaches, water carries, and putting on the finest grass greens that can be found anywhere.

During the last few years college golf has gone forward by leaps and bounds. Last year at Garden City during the Intercollegiate championship there were over one hundred and fifty players representing the different colleges in the East. Among them were such players as Watts Gunn, representing Georgia Tech.; Roland McKenzie, Brown (both players having represented the United States against Great Britain in the Walker cup matches); Paul Haviland, Yale; Ed Stimpson, Harvard; Charles Grace, Princeton; and "Chuck" Hunter, all the way from California. These are only a few of the stars who last year played in college golf and who all did well in the Amateur championship.

Last year the Yale Team, captained by Paul Haviland, and represented by L. Parker, W. Lanman (*Capt.* 1928), A. Knapp, W. Child and J. Sherman, played six matches against Brown, Holy Cross, Dartmouth, University of

Pennsylvania, Princeton and Harvard, winning all six, but lost to Princeton in the team medal-championship during the Intercollegiate Meet at Garden City. In the individual championship Yale had two men who reached the semi-final, Haviland and Parker. Haviland was defeated by McKenzie and Parker by Watts Gunn, both by narrow margins. Gunn finally won by decisively defeating McKenzie. Gunn during his morning round against McKenzie broke the long standing record at Garden City by scoring a phenomenal round of 68. This looks as though it were our college golfers to-day who are going to be our champions in later years.

I am amazed at the amount of real good golfers among the students who play at the Yale golf course. During the 1927 Spring tournament, which is open to all students who are members of the course and which carries the University championship, there were over one hundred entries, and in that number there were twenty scores under 84, four under 80, and three under 76. W. Lanman (*Capt.*) was the winner; he defeated J. Sherman in the final.

The University Golf Team of six players is chosen from the twelve who return the lowest scores in the Spring tournament. They play an extra eighteen holes and the lowest eight are chosen to comprise the squad. The last two have the right to challenge for the fifth and sixth places on the team. In this way the interest is kept up among the players, which means that the whole squad are constantly practising to perfect their game and keep their places on the team. The Freshman team of four players is chosen the same way. I must say that golf of a very high standard is played.

The prospects for the 1928 Varsity Team are very bright. Lanman, Parker, and Knapp are all strong players from the 1927 team, backed up by Ashforth, Guerny, Lamphier (*1927 Freshman Capt.*), Fisher, Forrester and Ryan. The Freshman will have two strong players in Aycock and Wilson.

What impresses me most of all is the good comradeship shown among all classes of student golfers. In my two years' experience at Yale, I have heard no complaints made of a player being too slow or of his driving into the players ahead. Everybody plays right on, and just as soon as a match is held up to look for a ball, the following players are immediately requested to come through.

The starter at the first tee regulates the play, allowing four-ball matches to start on the tenth tee. I have seen

as many as one hundred and fifty players start off during an afternoon and cause no confusion or congestion on the course.

This summer a combination team of Oxford and Cambridge players is planning to come over to play matches against Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Cornell. If this visit can be arranged it will give a great stimulus to

American college golf; and at the same time help the strong friendship between colleges in this country and Great Britain. *Too much cannot be said regarding the intended visit of the Oxford-Cambridge team and the good effects it should produce.* I'm sure that when they play the Yale team on the Yale course, they will find that college golf over here is on a par with that in Britain.

The Alumni Use of the Yale Golf Course

By R. SELDEN ROSE, '09

Member of the Board of Control, Y. U. A. A.

THE moving spirits in the construction of the Yale Golf Course were George Adee, '95, Mortimer Buckner, '95, and Dean Mendell, '04. Their aim was to build a great course for the use of the alumni and the University alike. They had ready to hand ideal terrain in the Ray Tompkins Memorial tract in Westville. Charles E. MacDonald laid out the course and the late Seth Raynor built it. This able group collaborated to build a masterpiece of golf architecture.

The third season has just opened as this article is written, with such a rush of undergraduate play that the Course seems to have established itself already as a University institution. Play promises to be even heavier than last year's daily average of ninety-two for the Spring and Fall terms. Before the Yale Course was built probably forty undergraduates played under special arrangement at Race Brook (out Derby Avenue) and at the New Haven Country Club (out Whitney Avenue); now there are between 350 and 400 golfers in the University who play regularly on their own course.

Its advantages were obvious at once. The first tee is only fifteen minutes from Yale Station, out Whalley Avenue to Westville and through the woods of the Tompkins Memorial property. There is no congestion even on days when play is heaviest. The Course itself from the short tees is ideal for beginners, the regular course from the middle tees is a good, fair test for the average game, from the back tees it is a severe test of championship golf. There are problems for all sorts and conditions of golfers. A word of advice—do not try the back tees unless other people, as well as you yourself, consider you a first-flight player. They are not the place for the merely ambitious with no record of achievement.

Clubhouse facilities are simple, almost primitive, but they are adequate. The log cabin, seventy-five by thirty feet, contains a large dressing room with showers, a generous shop for Ben Thomson and his assistant Frank Peebles, and a relatively small lounge. Great stone fireplaces are the only heating apparatus. The "restaurant" is a cabin in the woods a few yards away. It provides sandwiches, hot-dogs, milk and coffee. The Golf Committee is agreed that it is to the best interests of all to furnish only a magnificent course, a bath, a towel and very solid food. In addition to Thomson and Peebles the club house staff consists of a starter-clerk-caddymaster and a night watchman who closes the gates of the property at sundown.

The Athletic Association is fully aware of the necessity of maintaining a really great course as near perfection as possible. It has been liberal with funds, and William E. Perkins, '17 S., the superintendent, with the aid of my fellow-committeemen E. S. Bronson, '00 S., and C. A. Lohmann, '10, spends them wisely. He grew up with the Course, helped build it, in fact, and has developed into one of the best men in New England in coping with the many problems of construction, maintenance and development. His greens are superb, the fairways are excellent for their age, and he is completing an ambitious program of tee expansion which was made imperative by unexpectedly heavy play.

SUMMER PLAY

The most serious problem confronting the Golf Committee is to bring revenue up to maintenance costs. We think

it can be done. Under the Athletic Association's program of athletics for all, fees for University members must be kept within the reach of all and sundry. The result is that maintenance charges cannot be met with our maximum membership of 450. The Committee, however, is convinced that as maintenance costs decrease with further maturity of the Course, the revenue from summer play will increase greatly, even to the point of meeting all expenses not covered by income from the University body. The Yale Course is slowly winning recognition as one of the few great natural courses of the United States. Evidence of this is the fact that the New England Golf Association has just asked for and been granted the use of the Course for the Connecticut-Massachusetts-Rhode Island Interstate Matches scheduled for next September.

During the University year the undergraduates are already using the Course almost to the limit of its capacity. The nature of the Course and the teaching of Ben Thomson have combined to raise the standard of play to a very high level. Even from the back tees the undergraduates make the Course look easy.

The alumni on the other hand, except for a group of devoted regulars, have shown a surprising lack of interest. Many of them do not know that there is a Yale Golf Course; and others, I think, were frightened by badly-taken photographs of its water hazards. They gave us unfortunate publicity. The Course, however, has lived down an undeserved reputation for long carries and undue severity. Recognition from the alumni body is coming slowly. The same foursomes turn up unfaillingly on Saturday mornings through the Spring and Fall. They finish their round about noon and lunch in the rough. The habits have learned to bring their own things. They carry them off to their pet places in the sun or in the woods, and make themselves comfortable there until it is time to go in to the Bowl or Yale Field. The Course, by the way, is only ten minutes by motor from the parking space at the Bowl. Now these groups are beginning to come to New Haven in time for a round on Friday afternoon and then stay over Sunday. The more recent graduates who knew the Course as undergraduates are coming back for entire week-ends in New Haven. There are no restrictions and a great variety of memberships to choose from.

The Athletic Association hopes that the alumni will use the Course more and more every year. It goes without saying that they are welcome, because it is really their own course.

The sudden appearance on Monday, in Professor Phelps's care, of Gene Tunney, world-champion in the Ring and also in the Book world, as a lecturer on Shakespeare in Harkness Hall, produced a stampede of the students and a rousing Campus reception. Mr. Tunney spoke interestingly on his own pleasure in Shakespeare and urged his audience to do their own reading and thinking about him, rather than let an instructor do it for them. He lunched and played golf with Professor Phelps and Registrar A. K. Merritt, '93, and then returned to New York, escorted to the train by a large part of New Haven's population, to go into training. He was probably the highest paid lecturer who has yet spoken on a Yale platform.